CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In a wireless communication system, a method for transmitting data bits associated with an adaptive multi-rate (AMR) speech coder, comprising:

receiving a plurality of data bits associated with the AMR speech coder, wherein the plurality of data bits are representative of a silence descriptor (SID);

generating a plurality of frame quality indicator bits for the plurality of data bits;

forming a formatted frame having included therein the plurality of data bits and the plurality of frame quality indicator bits and conforming to a particular frame format defined by the communication system, wherein the formatted frame for the SID includes at least 8 frame quality indicator bits;

encoding the formatted frame with a particular encoder to generate an encoded frame; and

transmitting a representation of the formatted frame.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, further comprising:

rate matching the encoded frame in accordance with a particular rate matching algorithm.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of frame quality indicator bits comprise a plurality of cyclic redundancy check (CRC) bits.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of frame quality indicator bits comprise an 8-bit CRC value or a 12-bit CRC value.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the formatted frame is associated with one of a plurality of possible frame rates.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the plurality of possible frame rates includes four frame rates used for speech information, one frame rate used for a silence descriptor (SID), and one frame rate used for a blank frame.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the plurality of data bits are representative of speech information.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the plurality of data bits are associated with one of a plurality of possible data rates.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the formatted frame for each possible data rate include a particular number of data bits, which is different from the number of data bits in formatted frames for other possible data rates.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the plurality of data bits includes bits from a plurality of classes, and wherein each class is associated with a respective level of importance.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the generating and encoding are performed on the plurality of classes of bits in the formatted frame.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of classes of bits are allocated respective sections of the formatted frame.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the formatted frame with speech information includes at least 12 frame quality indicator bits.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[15]] 1, wherein the SID is one of a plurality of SID types.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the SID for each SID type includes a particular number of bits that is different from the SIDs for other SID types.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
appending, in the formatted frame, one or more format bits indicative of a particular SID type of the SID included in the formatted frame.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein formatted frames for the plurality of SID types have same frame length.

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20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the frame length for the plurality of SID types is 43 bits or 46 bits.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
transmitting signaling information associated with AMR data via a signaling channel.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
transmitting signaling information associated with AMR data in a signaling frame on a traffic channel used to transmit the formatted frame.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication system conforms to the cdma2000 standard.

Claims 25-57. (Cancelled)

58. (New) An apparatus for transmitting data bits associated with an adaptive multi-rate (AMR) speech coder in a wireless communication system, comprising:
means for receiving a plurality of data bits associated with the AMR speech coder, wherein the plurality of data bits are representative of a silence descriptor (SID);
means for generating a plurality of frame quality indicator bits for the plurality of data bits;
means for forming a formatted frame having included therein the plurality of data bits and the plurality of frame quality indicator bits and conforming to a particular frame format defined by the communication system, wherein the formatted frame for the SID includes at least 8 frame quality indicator bits;
means for encoding the formatted frame with a particular encoder to generate an encoded frame; and
means for transmitting a representation of the formatted frame.

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59. (New) The apparatus of claim 58, further comprising:

means for rate matching the encoded frame in accordance with a particular rate matching algorithm.

60. (New) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the plurality of frame quality indicator bits comprise a plurality of cyclic redundancy check (CRC) bits.

61. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the plurality of frame quality indicator bits comprise an 8-bit CRC value or a 12-bit CRC value.

62. (New) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the formatted frame is associated with one of a plurality of possible frame rates.

63. (New) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the plurality of possible frame rates includes four frame rates used for speech information, one frame rate used for a silence descriptor (SID), and one frame rate used for a blank frame.

64. (New) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the plurality of data bits are representative of speech information.

65. (New) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the plurality of data bits are associated with one of a plurality of possible data rates.

66. (New) The apparatus of claim 65, wherein the formatted frame for each possible data rate include a particular number of data bits, which is different from the number of data bits in formatted frames for other possible data rates.

67. (New) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the plurality of data bits includes bits from a plurality of classes, and wherein each class is associated with a respective level of importance.

68. (New) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the generating and encoding are performed on the plurality of classes of bits in the formatted frame.

69. (New) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the plurality of classes of bits are allocated respective sections of the formatted frame.

70.   (New) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the formatted frame with speech information includes at least 12 frame quality indicator bits.

71.   (New) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the SID is one of a plurality of SID types.

72.   (New) The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the SID for each SID type includes a particular number of bits that is different from the SIDs for other SID types.

73.   (New) The apparatus of claim 71, further comprising:
means for appending, in the formatted frame, one or more format bits indicative of a particular SID type of the SID included in the formatted frame.

74.   (New) The apparatus of claim 73, wherein formatted frames for the plurality of SID types have same frame length.

75.   (New) The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the frame length for the plurality of SID types is 43 bits or 46 bits.

76.   (New) The apparatus of claim 58, further comprising:
means for transmitting signaling information associated with AMR data via a signaling channel.

77.   (New) The apparatus of claim 58, further comprising:
means for transmitting signaling information associated with AMR data in a signaling frame on a traffic channel used to transmit the formatted frame.

78.   (New) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the wireless communication system conforms to the cdma2000 standard.

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